

MIT Grad Crowned Miss MA

By Beckett W. Sterner
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Erika Ebbel '03 became MIT's first Miss Massachusetts on June 26. This was her third try at winning the pageant, which Ebbel said she had initially decided to enter after seeing the competition on television and being encouraged by a friend. She said she is now preparing for the Miss America pageant, which will take place in Atlantic City on Sept. 18.

Ebbel majored in Chemistry and minored in music at MIT. She also participated in the MIT Dancetroupe and the varsity co-ed pistol team.

She competed on the platform of "Encouraging Middle and High School Students to Participate in Math and Science," and has started a tax-exempt organization called the WhizKids Foundation to help organize science fairs and programs in Massachusetts and California schools.

According to the Miss Massachusetts Web site, Ebbel won preliminary interview, swimsuit, and

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DANIEL BERSAK—THE TECH

A member of the US Navy waves a flag during Boston's Fourth of July Celebration at the Hatch Shell.

Kerry Picks Edwards As His Running Mate

By David M. Halbfinger
THE NEW YORK TIMES

PITTSBURGH

Sen. John Kerry named John Edwards as his running mate Tuesday, turning to the youthful North Carolina senator whose nimble campaign skills, engaging personality and evident appeal across different regions of the country made him the top choice of many Democratic leaders.

"I have chosen a man who understands and defends the values of America," Kerry told a roaring crowd at a morning rally at Market Square here, minutes after an announcement of his choice had been e-mailed to hundreds of thousands of supporters.

"A man who has shown courage and conviction as a champion for middle-class Americans and for those struggling to reach the middle class," Kerry added, citing the themes that Edwards had made his own in the Democratic primaries. "A man who has shown guts and determination and political skill in his own race for the presidency of the United States."

In the 51-year-old Edwards, Kerry, who is 60, chose a relatively new face to American politics, and a man who was his longest-lasting

major rival in the Democratic nominating contests. After a surprisingly strong second-place finish in the Iowa caucuses — some Kerry aides say they believe Edwards would have won had the caucuses occurred two days later — Edwards held on until the first week of March as others, like Howard Dean and former Gen. Wesley K. Clark, once thought to have more star power fell behind. "I was humbled by his offer and thrilled to accept it," Edwards said in a statement before joining his wife and children to fly to Pittsburgh to spend the evening with the Kerry family at Teresa Heinz Kerry's estate near here.

The Kerry campaign orchestrated the selection for maximum exposure, managing to keep it a secret across the holiday weekend, making both a traditional rally announcement as well as one by e-mail and putting off the ticket's first joint appearance for a day. The two men and their wives were to embark Wednesday on a four-day tour through the battleground states of Ohio, Florida, West Virginia and New Mexico before ending the week with a homecoming rally in North Carolina on Saturday.

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Dennis D. Dillon

Dennis D. Dillon '05, 23, died in a paraglider accident on Monday, June 28. His father also died in the crash.

"He remains the funniest and most interesting person I've ever known," Grace A. Chou '05, Dillon's girlfriend, wrote in an e-mail. "He could do everything from operating a tractor to horseback riding to bartending." After coming to MIT, Dillon became "perhaps the first Montana rancher to learn how to rave to trance and to enjoy Lollipup," she wrote.

"The biggest thing that really stands out to me about him is that he was the one person who always lived for what made him happy," said Samuel J. Hwang '05, who roomed with Dillon last semester. "Everyone gets caught up with making money, but [Dillon] was just planning on going back home and taking over his family's ranch."

"He was a great, great guy. Everyone who met him just really liked him. He never really complained or got mad," Hwang said.

Friends also remembered him for his ability to work with his hands, and his skills in the outdoors. A mechanical engineering student, "he was able to fix anything," said Amit K. Gupta '05, the summer president for Phi Beta Epsilon, Dillon's fraternity. He was "an extremely dedicated brother" of PBE, and was to take his second term as house manager this coming year.

He "loved to work" at his home, the Montana ranch that he died at, Chou wrote.

He also loved hunting and "shot his first deer when he was seven," Gupta said. He had already been to Africa once, and had been planning to go back with his family later this month, Gupta said.

Dillon was also known as a practical joker. Once, for example, Dillon caught a mouse in PBE and taped it to the doorknob to the room of three PBE brothers, said Gupta. The three brothers, who were all afraid of mice, were effectively trapped in their room until someone else came and removed the mouse from their doorknob, he said.

Coming from his Montana ranch, Dillon didn't have "a single suit or anything fancy," Hwang said. When he went to buy a dress shirt, he bought a FUBU brand shirt, not knowing that the brand is targeted at the black population, Hwang said.

He gradually acquired a suit and a cell phone, and even "eventually grudgingly added some Express Men and Banana Republic to his wardrobe," Chou wrote.

"He was one of those guys who was always having lot of fun," Hwang said. "He loved rock music and went to a bunch of concerts when he was here," Hwang said.

Mullainathan To Leave for Harvard

By Beckett W. Sterner
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Economics Professor Sendhil Mullainathan will be leaving MIT this year to accept an appointment at Harvard.

Mullainathan said that the primary reason for his decision was "having more access to the psychology department" at Harvard, which has a stronger emphasis on behavioral psychology than MIT's program does.

Put together with former MIT professor Steven Pinker's departure to Harvard last year for similar reasons, Mullainathan's departure indicates that MIT and Harvard are diverging in their approaches to psychology and cognitive science.

While Harvard is stronger in behavioral psychology, MIT has pursued a more microscopic approach, focusing on understanding the biophysical mechanisms of the mind in its brain and cognitive sciences department.

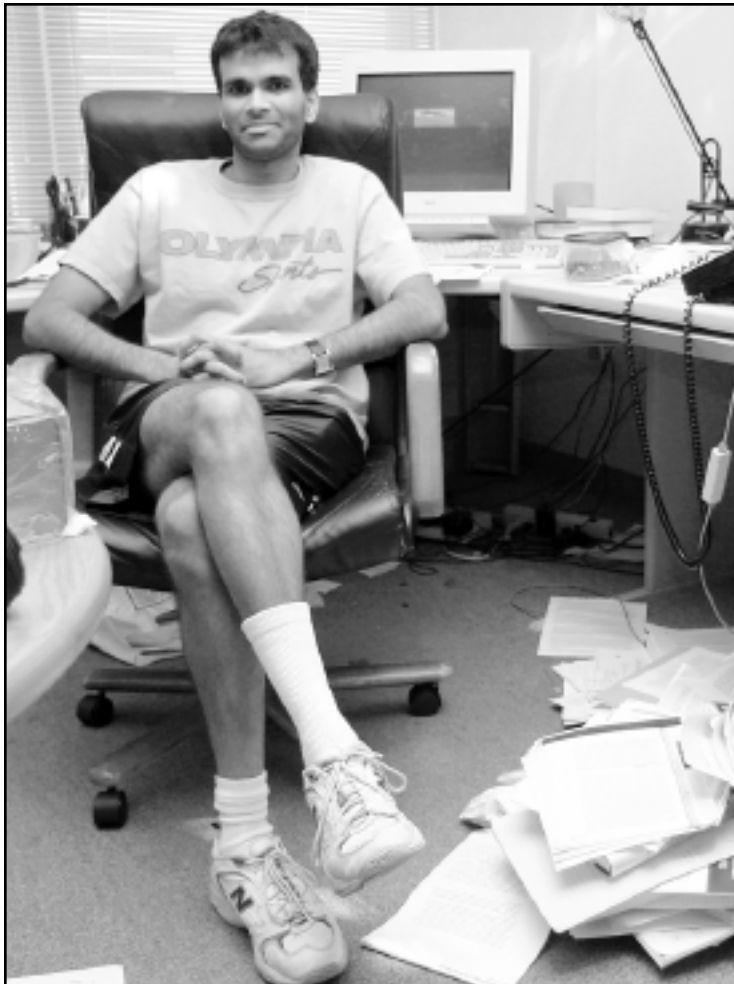
The standard economic analysis is predicated on the idea that we make our decisions rationally, with the deciding factor being money. Behavioral economics runs counter to this orthodoxy by working to take into account the sometimes irrational or emotional decisions we make.

Mullainathan said that a large part of his research right now focuses on how economically minor changes "in the decision environment can make larger changes" in the overall choice a person makes,

he said. One example might be a small change in the terms of a loan, which, while not affecting the over-

all cost dramatically, still causes a

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PETER R. RUSSO—THE TECH

Economics professor Sendhil Mullainathan sits in his office in building E52. Mullainathan will leave MIT for Harvard University later this year.

The Tech will next publish on
Aug. 4th.



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OPINION



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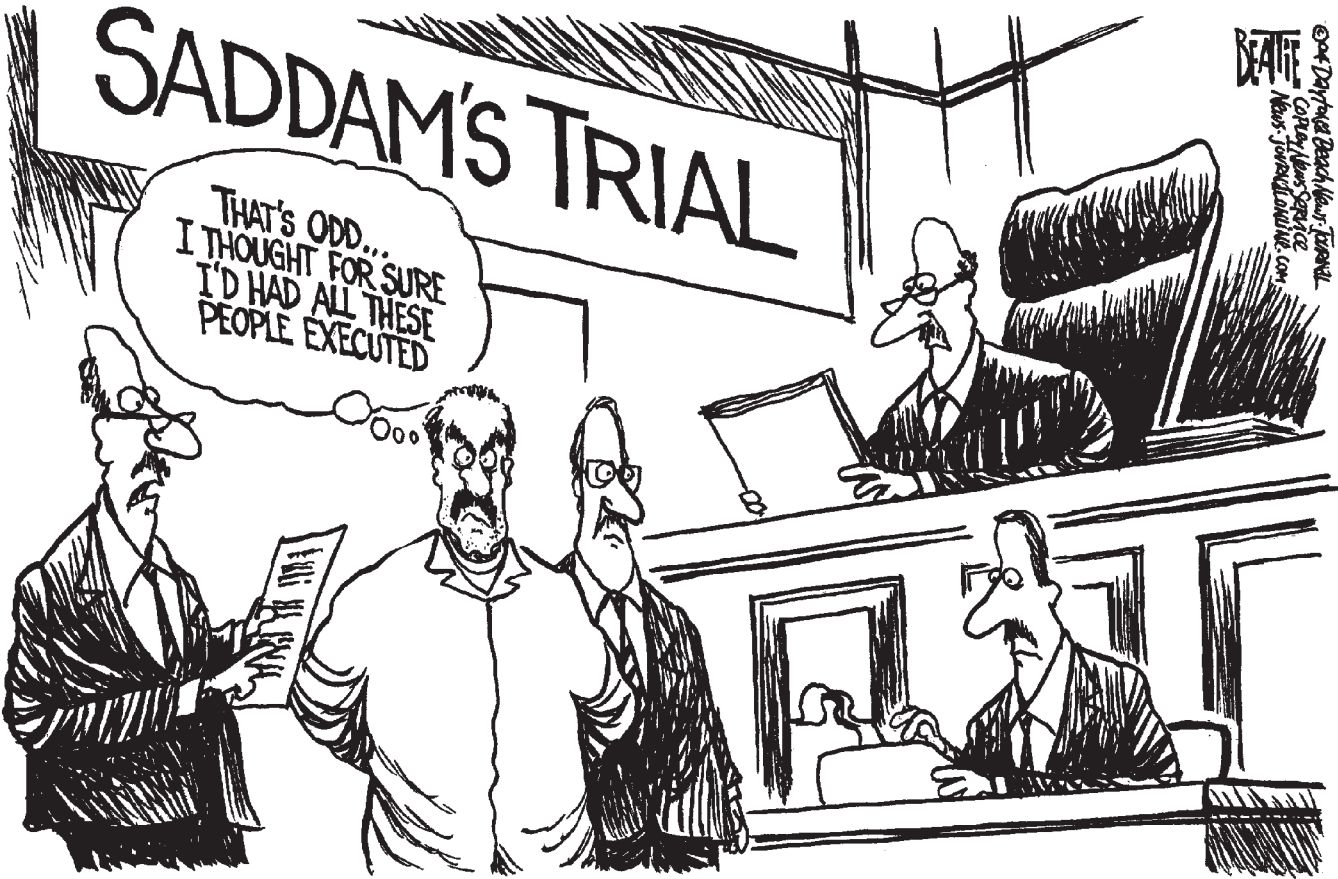
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Letters To The Editor

Reply to Treasurer Bufferd's Comments

I think MIT Treasurer Allan Bufferd's comments ["Another Look at Endowment," June 4] might partly be summarized as: 1) Based on your spending objective, tolerate the stock market risk that's necessary because the endowment is perpetual. 2) This is justified because of history over the past quarter century (i.e. the stock market went up a lot, so it will likely go up a lot again?).

My endowment strategy proposal is based on rather different views: 1) Set first the acceptable risk for your investments, especially where a primary objective is to smooth out-budget fluctuations. 2) While the heuristic that future returns will approximate past returns is very popular, market forecasting isn't that simple (most obviously since you can exhibit just about any historical return depending on the period you choose).

Why did I choose a five-year period? Because the Report of the Treasurer chose to present a five-year history. All three figures are indeed for five years, and are based on the data I was told would be available to me. The bond return is for the domestic bond benchmark used by Harvard Management Company. I don't think I asserted that my proposal "would be sufficient to cover both inflation and an appropriate level of spending," although bonds probably are more appropriate if your objective is to try to stabilize your return relative to inflation.

Finally, in my experience, among the worst enemies of effective investment strate-

gies are fear and greed. Greed is typified by overexposure to volatility. I suppose one sort of fear is of straying from a "mainstream policy." My suggestion is that conventional wisdom warrants serious consideration, but that MIT is enough of a leader to be able to also seriously consider other alternatives.

William J. Hartnett

Magro's Selective Memory

Gabrielle Magro displays a striking lack of fairness in her opinion piece, "Striking Lack of Free Speech Consistency" [June 11]. First, she claims that free speech was suppressed during the 2002 commencement, in which the president of the World Bank, James D. Wolfensohn, gave the address. However, as reported in *The Tech* ["Students Debate World Bank with Wolfensohn," June 14, 2002], the administration gave the students something more valuable than just the ability to protest; they were allowed to meet and discuss their issues with Wolfensohn directly. The meeting was reported in *The Tech* — and the protesters' message was delivered. Yet Magro can only remember that protesting during the actual ceremony itself was restricted.

Later in the piece, Magro reminds us about the administration's defense of party advertisements featuring scantily clad women and men. She complains that this was "an instance of silencing female members" of the community. Actually, we heard quite a bit from Aimee Smith at that time; the only restriction was that she wasn't allowed to put

up posters graphically depicting male genital mutilation. Smith claimed that the party posters were a form of sexual harassment and had decided to fight fire with fire. Of course, Magro fails to recount any of these facts. More importantly, Magro ignores a letter to *The Tech* from Bhuwan Singh, in which he describes asking the ACLU about the controversy ["Sexual Harassment From a Party Poster?" Feb. 22, 2002]. Singh reported a quote from Sarah Wunsch, staff attorney with the ACLU since 1990, regarding the alleged sexual harassment: "This is not enough. This doesn't come close to creating a hostile environment. It's not severe and pervasive, nor does it single out women. My criticism of what she [Aimee] is doing is it trivializes the real instances of sexual harassment."

Magro has taken selective use of the facts to make her case. This is the exact same tactic that FOX News and right wing talking heads such as Sean Hannity, Ann Coulter, and Bill O'Reilly use. FOX News, its "personalities," Smith, and Magro pander to their devotees — and do nothing to advance rational thought or debate about the issues.

Dave Lahr G

Leafletter's Perspective

I was misquoted in an article about the commencement day arrest of Dr. Aimee Smith and the forced dispersal of other leafletters ["Police Arrest Alum At Grad. Ceremo-

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Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, opinion editor, a senior editor, and an opinion staffer.

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Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted.

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Throwing Bricks in Our Economic Windows

Ruth Miller

As we learn more about fixing problems, we learn more about the benefits of prevention. In the era of modern medicine, we are now encouraged to foster good health rather than focus solely on illness. In the automotive world, we take our cars in for a 30,000-mile tune-up, not just when something breaks. Even in political science, we have something called the broken window theory.

The broken window theory states that violent crime arises in areas with litter, graffiti, or broken windows, because these are visible signs that no one cares. The thing that makes this theory of prevention different is that you can work backwards to solve problems; a number of accounts show that by fixing “broken windows” in an area with high crimes rates, it is possible to cause a decrease in crime.

That is why I believe this theory applies to the economy. Violent crimes can be compared to larger economic problems, such as unemployment and inflation. These things don’t “just happen,” and they don’t “just disappear.” They can be expected to rise and decline in

reaction to changes in the same factors, the windows. The \$100,000 question is: what are these windows?

John Kerry seems to think one window is minimum wage. This June he proposed raising the federal minimum wage to \$7.00 an hour by 2007. In defense of his intent to mandate the increase across the country, as opposed to President George W. Bush’s many proposed, optional increases, Kerry stated “some people stand up and say, ‘Oh gosh, don’t raise the minimum wage, that’s going to hurt us in this small business.’ But you know what? It never has.”

It’s never happened because there has never been such a steep increase. A dime or a quarter here and there, yes, but never a dollar in anything less than seven years. In our window analogy, such a dramatic increase in minimum wage is like passing out bricks. The most threatened group in a slow economy is the small business, and if they are expected to absorb such a steep cost, they will suffer and many will end up bankrupt. Raising the minimum wage is a quick fix by helping those with jobs, but it will eventually worsen the situation by leaving more and more people jobless. Shouldn’t we be protecting smaller

businesses so they can grow to become bigger businesses and create more steady jobs?

The window Bush has come up with, tax cuts aimed at large businesses and wealthier individuals, isn’t much better. The well-to-do benefit the most, but need help the least. The difference of a few percentage points of income to a low-income family is making rent, whereas for a high-income family it’s buying a bigger boat. To continue our analogy, this equates to repainting a fence next to ditch full of litter. If you want to fix something, fix the problem.

So what is a president to do? Well, let’s look for some windows.

Here’s one: corporate executives that gouge their employees and are a liability to their companies. In the world of the megacorporation, it seems the leadership is doing more for its own personal gain than for the employees, cutting benefits, salaries, and bonuses while giving themselves more kickbacks. Companies go bankrupt and CEOs get lavish “severance” packages. Worst of all, they’re getting away with it. Let’s work on providing better, more stable jobs for people. What if a CEO takes home \$5 million a year instead of \$6 million? That difference could

fund the opening of more stores, the manufacturing of more products, the hiring of more employees, or at the very least, price cuts and higher morale.

Here’s another window: our leaky job market. As an alternative to outsourcing our jobs to other countries, why not send them to other parts of our own population? I’d like to see the welfare system require able-bodied recipients to hold these low-skill jobs that are currently going overseas. I’m not talking about anything fancy, but manufacturing, telemarketing, and other low-skill jobs. Make it such that these companies have incentive to provide these jobs at home, and the money that would be funding the minimum wage could help provide companies with finances to pay these workers. It would cost the same for companies to hire Americans, and the money and jobs would remain domestic. We’d be lowering unemployment by providing a steady source of income to families that are willing to work for it. Patching these leaks in the system would help keep our economy afloat.

Let’s stop trying to “fix” the economy and address the problems that caused it to flounder in the first place.

Letters To The Editor, Continued

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ny,” June 11].

The Tech reporter quoted me as saying: “I was frozen because I didn’t want to get arrested.” What I actually said to the reporter was that Aimee and I were both frozen because we were not sure what to do. In fact, as I made clear to The Tech, we were confused, because two police officers were pushing themselves up against Aimee. Before we could even respond, they pulled out their handcuffs and arrested her.

I am still not sure why MIT police were treating Aimee differently than myself, given that we were both doing and saying the same thing.

After police dragged Aimee away, they refused to answer my question as to where

they were taking her. They told me they would arrest me too if I didn’t leave. It was after that point that I left.

This distinction is crucial, as MIT Police claims that Aimee was behaving differently from me in order to retroactively “justify” her arrest.

I feel that The Tech’s misquoting of me contributes to this false impression that is being propagated by MIT Chief of Police John DiFava and his department.

I was present at the arrest, as were commencement volunteers and goers. The claims by the police of what Aimee was saying or doing are easily refutable. Contrary to what is stated in the police report, Aimee was not behaving or talking in a disruptive manner. Any disruption was caused by the unwarranted arrest itself and it was only after police

handcuffed Aimee, dragged her forcibly (though she was not resisting), and caused cuts on her wrists that Aimee shared her opinion of the arresting officer.

At no point was I, nor any of the other leafletters, ever told of an alternate place to leaflet. In the end the message was clear: we were not to leaflet at all, anywhere. One of the police officers tried to confiscate leaflets from some of the other leafletters.

I am especially worried that the suppression of free speech at MIT through this false arrest continues to be defended by the MIT administration as “reasonable.” The arrest of Dr. Aimee Smith for peacefully handing out flyers has already sent a chill throughout MIT, a university that benefits greatly from the contributions of many foreigners who, in the post-Sept. 11 age, don’t have the luxury

of being arrested for expressing their opinion.

I am also worried that some members of our community are being targeted by our campus police; that day standing next to Dr. Smith, who wears a head scarf, I felt like they were targeting her specifically.

Suzanne Nguyen G

MIT Social Justice Cooperative member
[Editor’s Note: Following Gabrielle Magro’s initial complaint that she was misquoted in the June 11 article, I consulted with the reporter, Christine Fry. She confirmed that the quote was exactly what she had written in her notes, and as Christine is a trusted reporter with three years of experience, The Tech stands behind the quote as it appeared.]

—Beckett W. Sterner
Editor in Chief

SPORTS COLUMNS

The Summer’s Shocker

By Yong-yi Zhu
COLUMNIST

Every summer, while each of us is on vacation, something always happens that pulls us away from our wonderful fantasies and thrusts us back in the harshness of reality. While we bask in the glowing sun and enjoy a great swim in the ocean, the sports world is being turned upside down and inside out.

Last year, it was Sammy Sosa’s bat that instilled instant distrust in all of us for the game of baseball. Kobe Bryant contributed to the shock by cheating not only on his wife, but on his fans. The year before that, it was the Midsummer classic that ended in a 7–7 farce. And the year before that saw the saddening loss of Korey Stringer in training camp.

The list goes on and on.

This year, just when you thought that the Detroit Pistons’ series win over the LA Lakers would make the biggest headlines of the summer, LA managed to make a comeback of its own. Understanding Southern California, one expected that they would be vain enough to try to top the blue-collared, Midwestern town that trumped the seemingly indestructible Lakers. And so, the headlines began.

Phil Jackson: gone.

Shaquille O’Neal: wants to go.

Kobe Bryant: just plain messed up.

But then came the real shocker. When Jim Gray reported last week that their coaching position had been offered to long time Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski with a 5 year, \$40 million deal, suddenly it was clear that this would be the headline of the summer.

Duke has had Coach K for nearly a quarter of a century. He has a lifetime contract at the school and is seen somewhat as a godly figure in Raleigh, North Carolina. Not only is the court at Cameron Indoor Stadium named after him, but there is even a Krzyzewskiville outside of the stadium, an area where students camp out before the ticket office opens to obtain tickets to important Duke home games.

His job security is quite good and the kids at Duke love him. In fact, when it was announced that Coach K might be headed to LA, students went out to Krzyzewskiville to hold a rally to try to keep the man in town.

He was under the tutelage of Bob Knight, a coach who will never deviate from the college game. Krzyzewski appeared to be just as immune. In 1990, he flirted with the Celtics and almost left Duke. Rick Pitino and Steve Spurrier showed many of us how such a move was very silly. But this time, it’s really serious.

The Lakers are making him the highest paid coach in professional sports. He would get to coach Kobe Bryant, assuming the 25 year-old phenomenon is innocent of rape. And he will be in the limelight of the NBA, being in one of the most prestigious coaching position in the sport.

His departure will be the most devastating thing to happen to the college basketball since Lenny Bias’s death. But through any pain, a great deal of good is also done. Perhaps this will be the wakeup call that college basketball really needs. When one of its coaches is threatened to leave not just because he is given a great opportunity in Vanity Land, but he is also turned off by the way college basketball, the purest form of basketball, has become in the past several years, maybe it is time for the game to look at itself and reevaluate where it is headed.

The solution does not seem easy. How does one convince the Luol Dengs to stay in school? And the Shawn Livingstons to go to school? Simply put, how does one motivate a player to turn down millions of dollars to go get an education, both academically and athletically?

Whatever the solution, they should figure it out and figure it out soon. You don’t want the Mike Krzyzewskis and the Mike Montgomerys of the world to leave their wonderful roles as teachers and go to the NBA. The students need them and so do their fans.

Is Poker the New Golf?

By Yong-yi Zhu
COLUMNIST

What did you do last night? Chances are, if you have ESPN, you took a sneak peak at the World Series of Poker Premiere even if you didn’t know much about poker. Actually, poker might have even crept into your mind sometime over the past year despite the fact that you claim to not be a gambler.

Poker is just as fashionable these days as wearing Gucci suits, Dolce and Gabbana dresses or Manolo Blahnik shoes. As a habit, it’s probably not much cheaper than the kind of money people shell out for name brand clothing.

From seven-card stud to Omaha to Texas Hold ‘Em, there has been a sudden surge of popularity in the card game in mainstream America. Suddenly, poker is no longer viewed as a game of luck or chance. Instead, it is respected for the amount of skill required to play and the extent to which discipline is necessary. Poker is being anointed the title of a sport, and the fastest growing sport at that.

Sound familiar?

That’s right. Poker has become what golf was back in the late 90s. The difference here is there has been no one man, no Tiger Woods, who has propelled the sport to such heights. It was a variety of things the brought poker to the limelight. So where exactly did Poker popularity come from?

Perhaps it began with the movie Rounders in which Matt Damon and Edward Norton portrayed poker players in desperate need of money. It showed how quickly they went from broke to rich with just a couple of games of poker. It might have continued when the mother-ship of sports, ESPN, began to broadcast some of the past tournament highlights during holiday vacations when little else was on television. The audience reaction was probably good enough that they decided to air a six-part series last year for the World Series of Poker, crowned the most prestigious tournament in poker.

Two networks currently have regular coverage of poker events. In addition to the exclusive coverage of the World Series of Poker provided by ESPN, there is a weekly airing of World Poker Tour events on the Travel Channel, which is a part of Discovery. These events show the final table action over the course of two hours and include tournament tips, player featurettes as well as poker lingo help.

This year, because of the large ratings that ESPN received for the six-part series put on last year, ESPN will have a full 22 episode season of World Series of Poker action in primetime on Tuesday nights. Between Sunday Night Baseball, Monday Night Football and Wednesday Night Hockey (which hopefully will happen this upcoming year), there will be the Tuesday Night Poker Game.

It’s not a traditional American sport, but if you think about it, it might actually be more traditional and more American than anyone might imagine. Many of us played it while growing up alongside games like Blackjack or Hearts. It’s just that now, there’s often a great deal of money on the line in these high stakes poker games.

In addition, people will talk about poker games they’ve played just like baseball games they’ve watched. We used to talk about things like Mark McGuire’s homeruns, or Emmitt Smith’s touchdown runs. Now, people will add to that conversation good hands they’ve had, bad beats they’ve experienced and poker anomalies they feel are worth other people’s attention.

Unlike golf, though, poker has many more stars. Perhaps that 22 episode season will not even be enough come this time next year. And perhaps many of us will even have enough poker under our belts to create an episode ourselves. In the meantime, you might want to watch your wallet in addition to watching the World Series of Poker.

Food Truck Serves Late-Night Meals to Mass. Ave. Customers

By Ray C. He
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

A nighttime food truck, Marty B's Mobile Meals, now serves food on Massachusetts Avenue, in front of Building 7, four nights a week.

Marty B's menu includes a variety of sandwiches, hamburgers, salads, and entrees. "Everything is fresh and cooked to order," said owner-operator Martin Berry.

The truck is open from 7:00 p.m. to midnight on Wednesdays and Thursdays, with extended hours from 7:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m. or 2:30 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays,

he said.

"I will be considering opening Tuesday night as well, depending on demand," he said. "If people want me, I'll be here."

Need prompts licensing, opening

Berry, who has 20 years of experience in food services and currently provides service at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School during the day, opened his food truck after he "noticed a demand for food in this area, especially at night," he said.

The process of opening his food truck involved an application and approval process with the Cam-

bridge License Commission and sanitation certification, Berry said. "It was a little bit of a journey getting here," he said.

Berry plans to keep the food truck around throughout the next year. "I'm licensed for a full year now, starting next month," he said.

Marty B's regular customers include the evening patrol of the MIT Police. "We eat here every night," said Officer Joseph S. West, who has tried over half of the entrees. "Everything's good," he said.

West recommended the Beantown Chicken, calling it "out of this world."

Departing Prof. Plans To Keep MIT Contacts

Mullainathan, from Page 1

strong shift in what people prefer.

Mullainathan said that Harvard's current faculty composition fits more closely with his own research interests, although he said he would retain contacts with MIT, including the Poverty Action Lab he helped found in 2003.

"I don't think it's a very big move," he said. A move from one institution to another "kind of exaggerates the difference between A and B," even though they may be quite similar in quality, he said.

"I think [MIT] is the best place to go by far for junior faculty," he said, with Harvard as a possible exception since he received his PhD from Harvard, and the department there does not recruit its own PhD students.

He said that he thought both MIT and Harvard were making bets on what the most promising new areas of research are, and that the very different bets were not problematic because they represent "a division of labor ... and that's a good thing."

Ebbel Wins Scholarship, Advocates for Platform

Ebbel, from Page 1

talent awards. The talent category consists of a two-minute performance, she said, for which she played the Fantasy Impromptu by Chopin on piano.

The contest "is a scholarship pageant," she said, with the interview and talent awards making up 70 percent of a candidate's overall score. It's "not just about wearing a swimsuit," she said, which makes up "a very minor part" of the pageant overall.

She received over \$12,000 dollars in school scholarships for winning the competition. Ebbel said her ultimate goal is to enroll in an

MD/PhD program after carrying out her responsibilities as Miss Massachusetts, although winning Miss America would mean a full-time and year-long commitment before she could return to school.

She said that one of the largest benefits of being Miss Massachusetts is that she now has a stronger voice in advocating for her platform. The Massachusetts Legislature is "much more likely to respond to Miss Massachusetts" than to an MIT student, she said.

Joanne Chang '03 also competed in the pageant this year. Chang, a course VI major, placed as fourth runner up and focused on making science more accessible to minorities.

Edwards Expected to Energize Elections

Kerry, from Page 1

Democrats who roundly hailed the selection Tuesday said Edwards' buoyant personality and drawling, sunny speaking style would bring a needed jolt of energy to Kerry's ticket. They said he would provide a dramatic contrast with Vice President Dick Cheney, though Republicans countered that a debate between the two would be a face-off between sizzle and substance, particularly in wartime when Edwards' relative lack of foreign policy experience would be an issue.

Edwards forced Kerry's aides to try to reconcile the senator's dismissal of Edwards as unready for the presidency when the two men were vying in the Democratic primaries. "In the Senate four years and that is the full extent of public life no international experience, no military experience," Kerry said in Iowa in January. "When I came back from Vietnam in 1969, I don't know if John Edwards was out of diapers."

And in February, in a debate with Edwards, Kerry warned, "This is not the time for on-the-job training in the White House on national security issues."

acknowledged that political strategy played a part in how he settled on Edwards, but said that Kerry was more concerned that his running mate "be in a position to succeed him."

Yet when asked when and how Kerry had satisfied himself of Edwards' readiness to assume the presidency, Cahill instead cited Edwards' "tireless" campaigning for Kerry since withdrawing from the race.

"When you're competing in the primaries, you are thinking about getting through the primaries," she said. "When you look at who is a good running mate, a good partner, that is a different calculus. And when he went through that, it was clear to him that Sen. Edwards would be a great partner to win the presidency in November."

Several Democrats also said Edwards' selection would put to rest questions that Kerry, of Massachusetts, was writing off the South. Rather, they said, Edwards' addition — and his support from blacks, among other mainstay Democratic constituencies — would put North Carolina into contention and bolster Kerry's bid in some other southern states, improving his chances of outdoing the abysmal performance in the South of Al Gore, a native Tennessean, four years ago.

Kerry's choice of Edwards is also likely to have a powerful effect on the future direction of the Democratic Party, giving a platform to a younger Democrat and setting up a potential leadership clash between Edwards, as Kerry's presumptive heir, and Hillary Rodham Clinton, who has ridden her husband's legacy to the Senate already and is widely thought to have designs on the White House herself.

While Edwards' background as a trial lawyer was sure to help Kerry and the Democratic Party raise money heading into the fall campaign, Republicans and industry officials said it also would propel business executives, manufacturers and other proponents of curbs on civil litigation and jury awards to step up their contributions to Bush.

More immediately, the choice of

Republicans immediately played up Kerry's past remarks. "This is the person he now considers qualified to be president of the United States?" asked Steve Schmidt, a Bush campaign spokesman, as Republicans circulated a 23-page, 16,000-word dossier Tuesday that depicted Edwards as an unaccomplished, inexperienced, disingenuous liberal.

The Bush campaign also began airing a television advertisement featuring what it described as "John Kerry's first choice for a vice presidential running mate," Sen. John S. McCain of Arizona. McCain, a Republican with an appeal to independents, had deflected several approaches by Kerry about forging a bipartisan ticket.

Edwards, the son of a millworker who became a successful and wealthy trial lawyer, was spurred to enter politics after his eldest son Wade's death as a teenager in a car accident in 1996. Two years later, in his first race, he unseated senator Lauch Faircloth, then began running for the presidency before his first term was over.

Kerry left questions to his aides Tuesday afternoon as he flew from here to Indianapolis to speak to a convention of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and back. His campaign manager, Mary Beth Cahill,

In his announcement, Kerry provided clues to how his estimation of Edwards had risen. "I've seen John Edwards think, argue, advocate, legislate and lead for six years now," he said. "I know his skill, I know his passion, I know his strength, I know his conscience, I know his faith."

"John Edwards is ready for this job," Kerry said. "John Edwards is ready for this job," he repeated, adding that "I am determined that we reach out across party lines, that we speak the heart of America, that we speak of hope and optimism, and John Edwards will join me in doing that."

For all their friction in the primaries, Kerry and Edwards had two influential Democrats in common as advisers: Sen. Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, who took Edwards under his wing in the Senate and took an increasingly large role in Kerry's campaign during the primaries; and Bob Shrum, the speechwriter and media consultant who worked for both Kerry and Edwards until both men's entry into the primary race forced him to drop Edwards as a client last year.



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Charges Against Aimee Smith Dropped

By Ray C. He
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The Middlesex District Attorney's Office has dropped charges against local activist Aimee L. Smith PhD '02 for disorderly conduct and disrupting a school assembly.

News Brief

The charges were dropped " 'at the request of [MIT President Charles M.] Vest and in the interest of justice,' according to court documents that were filed," said Melissa Sherman, a press officer at the Middlesex County District Attorney's office.

Smith had been arrested while handing out flyers to people attending MIT's June 4 commencement ceremony in Killian Court.

"At my arraignment, they wanted to drop the charges if I would pay the court costs," said Smith, who refused this offer. "They essentially admitted that they didn't have anything" to warrant the "imaginative set of charges," she said.

On June 11th, Smith and MIT Social Justice Cooperative members Anne Pollock G. Gibson, and Suzanne P. Nguyen G met with President Vest, she said. The four told Vest their side of the story and discussed the role of free speech.

After the discussion, Vest notified the District Attorney office that MIT would not follow through with its charges, Sherman said.

"My lawyer informed me that everything was dropped last Friday," Smith said.

"MIT did have a permit" for Memorial Drive, Smith said. "This shouldn't allow them to forbid leafletting. If it comes to violating people's constitutional rights, it's gone too far."

Vest did not respond to requests for comment.

ARTS

MOVIE REVIEW ★★½

‘Spider-Man 2’ Better than the Original

‘Unbreakable’ Remains the Greatest Superhero Film

By Philip Burrowes
STAFF WRITER

Spider-Man 2
Screenplay by Alvin Sargent
Directed by Sam Raimi
Starring Tobey Maguire, Alfred Molina,
Kirsten Dunst, James Franco
Rated: PG-13

Spider-Man 2 is not really about the eponymous superhero (Tobey Maguire) battling the eight-appendaged evil genius Dr. Otto “Octopus” Octavius (Alfred Molina). Rather, it is a delicate and heartfelt exploration of the consequences we face when we put our personal desires above the needs of our neighbors. The summer blockbuster — known for pandering to the lowest common denominator — has never been better used to highlight the limitations brought paradoxically by the possession of extraordinary gifts. It’s a shame too, because the movie is much better when it’s just Spidey and Doc Ock fighting.

For those unfamiliar with either the first film or the characters’ general mythoi, you’re not going to be especially confused, but for the most part, “Spider-Man 2” knows it’s the second installment in a presumptively popular franchise. The initial film’s plot is revisited visually with a series of Alex Ross paintings (if you’re a fan, look for his Amazing Fantasy #15 reinterpretation later). These probably mean nothing if you don’t grasp their larger context, but provide a welcome good memory jog if you do. On a whole, the title sequence remixes the web-motif of the first film, except

with a red color theme instead of blue this time around. Usually the opening credits aren’t bragable, but unless the soundtrack’s melange of Danny Elfman with likes of Dashboard Confessional really does it for you, it’s imagery or nothing.

Not that authors don’t try and lend something greater to the film. Michael Chabon — of “Kavalier and Clay” fame — and long time screenwriter Alvin Sargent might have done fine on their own. Instead, Spider-Man 2 comes across much more like their collaborators Alfred Gough and Miles Millar’s claim to fame: Smallville. Smallville takes an iconographic comic book character, spends most of the time exploring his romantic relationships, occasionally (but blatantly) foreshadows a future confrontation between that character and his best friend, and likes to throw in a CG-brawl for good measure. The same goes for Spider-Man 2, substituting Peter Parker for Clark Kent, Mary Jane Watson (Kirsten Dunst) for Lana Lang, Harry Osborn (James Franco) for Lex Luthor, and Octavius for [Smallville villain du jour].

What makes Gough and Millar’s style even less inspiring is that the plot is a mish-mash of moments from Spider-Man’s comic history. Octavius is welded to a quartet of mechanical arms while experimenting with a new form of energy, as he was in “Amazing Spider-Man #3.” His relationship with arms is a schizophrenic symbiosis, à la Brian Michael Bendis’ version of the villain. Meanwhile, Spider-Man’s powers mysteriously disappear, a conceit which occurs several times but most

similarly in “Amazing #12.” After a series of events wherein he lets people down because he has to save the day, he decides life would just be easier for him if he were “Spider-Man, no more,” a sequence lifted straight from the pages of “Amazing #50.” However, once Harry — who blames Spider-Man for his father’s death — allies with Octavius, Peter Parker must become Spider-Man once more, if mostly out of a desire to save his inamorata Mary Jane, a damsel-in-distress tale as old as time.

Most people have better things to do than read children’s magazines from the sixties, however, so they are blissfully unaware of the hodgepodge origins of the plot. It’s certainly superior to the previous Spider-Man, in any case. The trademark wit of our protagonist is more evident, albeit still too infrequent. We also get a deeper presentation of the extent to which having an alter ego is just an absolute mess, from the difficulty dating to having a costume that bleeds in the wash. He even spins a surprisingly diverse array of webs. For some reason, the public is still presented as having a love affair with him, despite his vilification in the press and the fact that he has the powers of one nature’s creepiest creatures. Equally mystifying are the multiple scenes of Spider-Man webslinging arbitrarily across the city, given that Sony Imageworks still can’t make it look very believable.

Yet somehow, the fight sequences are still among the most entertaining you will ever see. Perhaps it’s because they rapidly traverse miles of constantly changing terrain, using

multiple perspectives before they’re over, in contrast to the static, stationary arenas of, well, real life. Or maybe it’s because Octavius and Spider-Man are by their nature very different fighters, so their fisticuffs can’t be reduced to the “like Hong Kong, but bigger” style which had been the previous frontier of American action cinema since “Face/Off” or so. More likely it’s because there is altogether less than half an hour of solid brawling in the whole two hour-plus flick. Every time someone directs a limb at someone else, it’s a welcome respite from ultimately worthless character development.

After all, we know Parker is going to become Spider-Man again, yet a good chunk of the story consists of his repeatedly abdicating responsibility against his better judgment. Octavius is a sympathetic villain, in no small part because he can never come full circle; he will always be a monster because of those arms. Plus, he spends such a small amount of time performing actual on-screen villainy we can forget he’s even in the movie. Harry and Mary Jane, meanwhile, progress linearly to the point of being unbelievable, even for a comic film. Theirs are especially unfulfilling maturations, as their changes leave a host of plot threads dangling, not merely begging but demanding the closure of a sequel years away.

If that third film is as much an improvement on the second as the second on the first, we might well be in for quite a treat. The current state of the franchise is nevertheless little more than popcorn ephemera, which everyone is in the mood for now and again.

MOVIE REVIEW

‘Fahrenheit 9/11’: Pop Culture Virus

New Michael Moore Documentary Gives Accessible Presentation of U.S. Politics

By Jon Santiago

Fahrenheit 9/11
Written by Michael Moore
Directed by Michael Moore
Running time: 122 minutes
Rated: R

Walking into theaters across America this June and July, moviegoers will encounter the typical blockbuster movie posters pushing the likes of “Spider-Man 2,” “The Chronicles of Riddick,” “Garfield,” and other disgustingly contentless drivel. Yet somehow a documentary about politics and government has joined their ranks, and even recently topped the box office. This documentary by film maker Michael Moore, who made the Academy Award winning documentary “Bowling For Columbine,” is a beacon of hope for a media culture driven by distraction-based violence, glamour and petty materialism. Like it or not, the so-called “permanent adversarial culture” has seeped into mainstream pop culture.

Even if you disagree with what Moore’s film “Fahrenheit 9/11” does to explain the corruption in Bush’s administration, the fact that people around the country are taking the time to watch and debate the film, is a huge step in the right direction for the American public. Politics, either in school or on C-SPAN, is always presented as arcane and inaccessible, putting the masses into sleep. On top of this, there are major news outlets pumping fear and chaos into the American mind, and an entertainment culture that serves to numb the consumer into a state of fetal dependency. What Moore’s film does is present a clear, accessible, and entertaining picture of government that essentially enfranchises and challenges every citizen to start paying attention to matters that effect the world as a whole.

Since the movie has been released, critics have gone after Moore, complaining about manipulation of images to achieve his “goals.” Of course they never talk about how we are constantly being fed manipulations by TV news every day, by the mere fact that they edit and filter raw footage of Bush to make him sound somewhat coherent from time to time. “Night after night on the evening news, you’ll get maybe 5 seconds of George W. Bush where it sounds like he makes sense,” Moore explains in a recent interview with Weekly Dig magazine. “In my film, I show

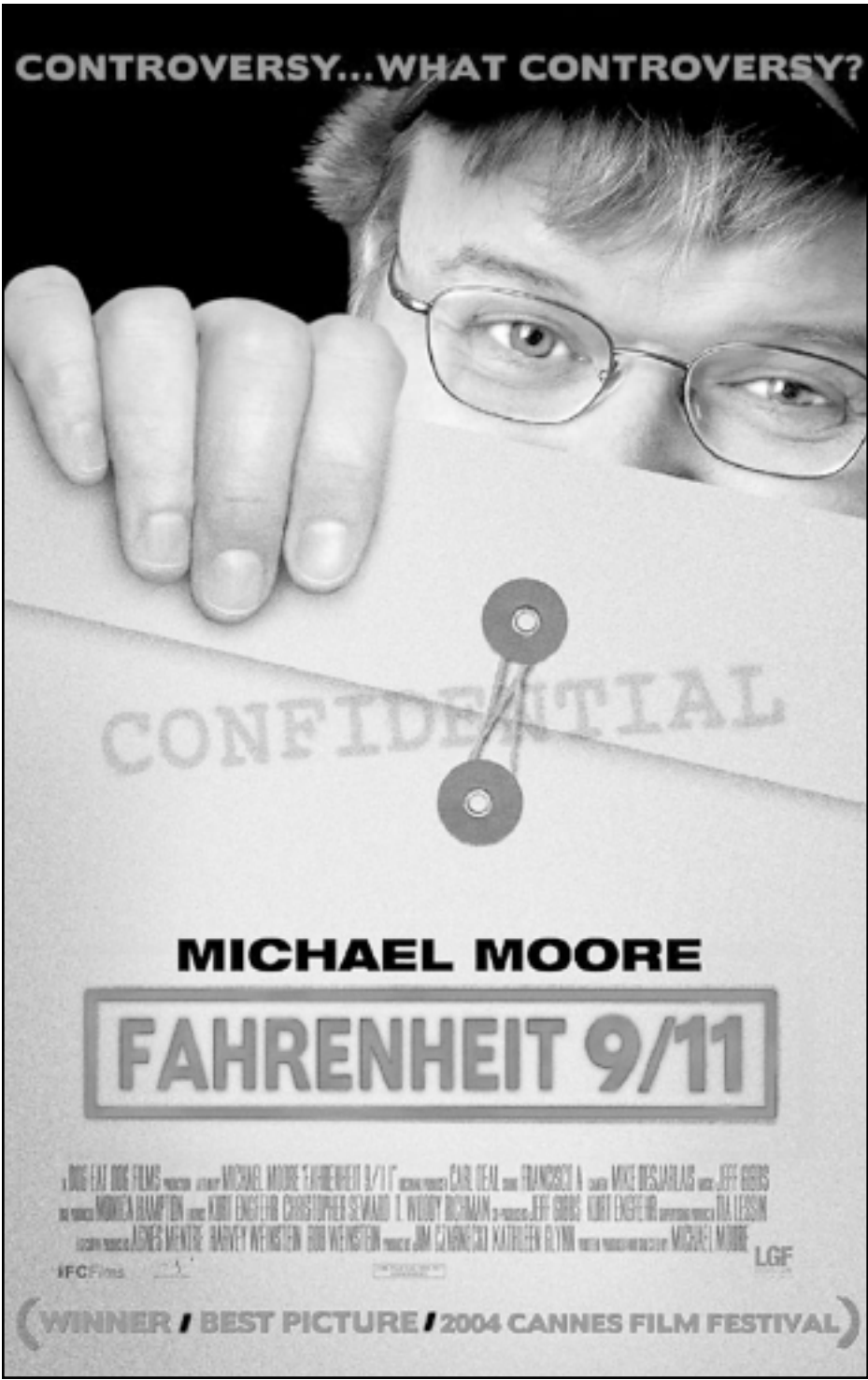
the 20 seconds on either side of those 5 seconds of George W. Bush where he is totally discombobulated. In my film, I take the filter off, and you see it raw and uncensored and the way it really is. It’s both hilarious and frightening.”

The road to distribution for Moore’s film was full of nasty business disputes. “Fahrenheit 9/11” was originally supposed to be made by Icon, which is Mel Gibson’s production company. “They asked if there was any way we could get someone else to take over the deal, because they received a call from ‘top Republicans,’ people connected to the White House, who essentially wanted to convey the message to Mel, ‘Don’t expect any more invitations to the White House if they’re going to be behind this film.’”

So then Moore’s agent arranged a deal with Miramax, a subsidiary of the Disney corporation. After the film had finished production, Michael Eisner was furious that Miramax had signed the deal to do Moore’s film. “The movie, he believed, would complicate an already complicated situation with current and future Disney projects in Florida, and that many millions of dollars of tax breaks and incentives were at stake,” said Moore in an open letter.

Eisner and Disney execs defended their decision in *The New York Times*, claiming that “it is not in the best interests of our company to distribute a partisan political film that may offend some of our customers,” and “‘Fahrenheit 9/11’ is not the Disney Brand; we put out family oriented films.” The reader may feel slightly skeptical about these comments, considering that Disney distributes and syndicates the Sean Hannity radio show, and Rush Limbaugh’s show is on Disney owned ABC. And about the family film comment, Tarantino’s “Kill Bill” movies and “Pulp Fiction” are all Miramax films.

Luckily for Moore, the film was picked up by IFC/Lion Gate films at the last minute. Without question, “Fahrenheit 9/11” does have a bias. This bias is that individual human life is more important than large institutions. How you feel about it depends on where your loyalties lie, and most people heavily rewarded by the existing system have a lot at stake to defend it. Moore’s movies, and the work of independent journalists around the world, give a voice to the voiceless who would otherwise be marginalized an an unfeeling industrial machine.



Michael Moore narrates in his documentary about the Bush administration.

LIONS GATE FILMS

CONCERT REVIEW

DJ Sasha Entrances Audience With Eclectic Set

Whirlwind Tour Features New Songs From 'Involver'

By Bo Miller

*DJ Sasha
Avalon Night Club
June 25, 10 p.m.*

Note to self: when going out in Boston for a real purpose besides becoming juvenile werewolves who get smashed at moonrise and act like cavemen, do not ever rely on the MBTA. After 45 minutes of waiting and watching a train move back and forth in front of the Harvard T platform, taunting over 300 frustrated T'ers, my patience gave. Instead, I took a cab into the city so I wouldn't miss DJ Sasha's entire set at Avalon.

Trains and buses in Boston unpredictably break down and run late so often, it's almost more effective to just walk everywhere and exercise off frustrations while you're at it. You would think that one of the most rigorous technical schools in the world could take the initiative to improve the functionality of a transportation system to the level of non-aggravating — at least for the sake of its students and community.

Well, enough about my misadventures and gripes in trying to actually get to Avalon to hear DJ Sasha spin. Once there, the familiar air of being taken over by the music and ambience hit me. It's been a while since I've been to a club where the music didn't contain words that left nothing to the imagination, i.e., hip-hop. In this respect, house, trance, techno, and glowstick-implementing music is a refreshing break from the lack of subtlety in pop culture these days. Of course, Avalon makes sure to compensate for that lack by displaying pencil-thin women who belong more in B-rated soft porn movies than in nightclubs. This only suggests to me that youth and those seeking it cannot find more fulfilling activities to thrive on than immediate gratification of human impulses.

Commentary on the current state of humanity aside, Sasha is one of the few who can draw crowds of people and transform them into sweaty, dehydrated, gyrating masses. His concert at Avalon was part of a four-month world tour celebrating his new album "Involver," released on June 22 in the US and Canada and on June 14 in the UK and the rest

of the world. Stops on his tour include Romania, Turkey, Germany, Italy, three trips to famed Ibiza of Spain, as well as Madrid, and the US and UK, of course. "Involver" is his first mix compilation in almost five years and the first full-length release since his last album "Airdrawndagger." The album also showcases the talents of friends and cohorts Felix Da Housecat, UNKLE, and Ulrich Schnauss.

What has enabled this talent may be the development of new mixing software called Abelton Live, which virtually does the beat-matching for you and has given Sasha room to explore new ways to tantalize the masses, a la "Matrix Reloaded" party style. If you've seen the movie, you know Sasha has been exploring a lot. Instead of spending energy syncing tracks from vinyl and CD's, he now performs in a manner akin to the "Wizard of Oz," creating almost dreamlike syntheses you never could have imagined before you stepped foot inside the club. Haunting echoes that ricochet inside your head and hair-raising suspenseful beats drew out emotions in me that I thought only a shrink could.

Now that Sasha's sets are purely digitized by his computer, they have a more eclectic quality than in the past. His seven-hour-plus New Year's concert in New York was more of a dance marathon; I felt like his inspiration had evaporated along with everyone's buckets of sweat. But while his sets are different each time he plays, this tour features mixes from the latter half of "Involver," including a new remix of "In a State" by UNKLE and, his favorite, "Smile" by The Youngsters. Having a line-up of world-class progressive electronic music can make any amateur DJ sound good, but without Sasha's singular tastes and personal touch, the night would have been just another party put on by a club. "Involver" may be a dream come true, but Sasha's live sets are utterly unworldly.

Sasha's innovative and truly artistic creations of rhythm and sound produced euphoria-inducing sensations for all the patrons of Avalon on Friday night. Watching everyone — from the few dancing with a set of glowsticks to the beautiful exhibitionists — almost made me feel warm and fuzzy about the MBTA for a few hours.

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July 7, 2004

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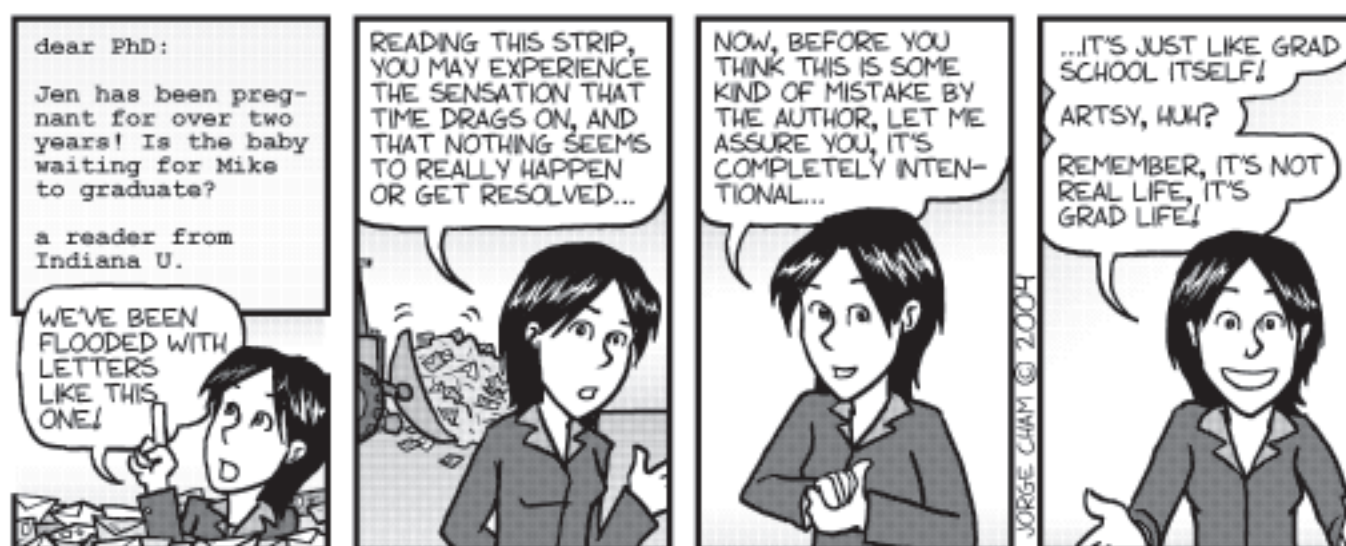
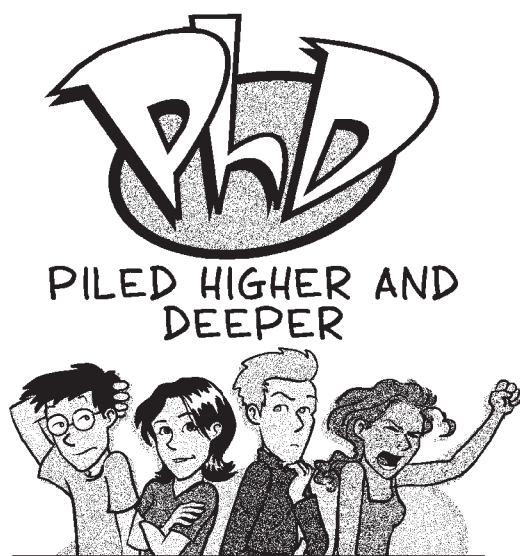
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PETER R. RUSSO—THE TECH



DANIEL BERSAK—THE TECH

Boston's Fourth of July

For full photo coverage, see *The Tech* Web page at <http://www-tech.mit.edu>



PETER R. RUSSO—THE TECH

An estimated 450,000 people packed the esplanade along the Charles River for Boston's annual Fourth of July concert and fireworks show. Concert headliners were singer and actress Jennifer Holliday and former Van Halen frontman David Lee Roth. After the concert, over ten thousand fireworks shells lit up the night sky.

(above left) Launch tubes sit idle on the deck of the fireworks barge anchored in the Charles River on the afternoon before the show, Saturday, July 3.

(above) A young girl covers her ears as howitzers are fired toward the end of the "1812 Overture."

(left) Thousands of revelers crowd the esplanade and hundreds of boats fill the Charles River basin in anticipation of the festivities on the 4th.



PETER R. RUSSO—THE TECH

(above) Audience members dance to Glenn Miller's "In the Mood" during Boston's Fourth of July celebration at the Hatch Shell.

(above right) Conductor Keith Lockhart leads the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra.

(right) Fireworks explode over the Charles River after the concert, as seen from the roof of the Green Building.



DANIEL BERSAK—THE TECH



STANLEY HU—THE TECH